

Dr. Ray Smith is a native of Georgia and received his undergraduate degree from Asbury College in Kentucky in 1983. After teaching high school biology for two years he entered a graduate degree program in agronomy at the University of Georgia. Ray's masters degree was completed in 1988 and he went on to complete a Ph.D. in the same program in 1991. His graduate research focused on breeding and management of alfalfa and tall fescue. From 1991 to 2001, Ray held a research, teaching and extension position at the University of Manitoba, Canada with a focus on alfalfa and perennial grass breeding, seed production and forage management. He was the Extension Forage Specialist in Virginia from 2001 through 2004. Ray is currently one of two Forage Extension Specialists in Kentucky (Garry Lacefield is the other). His extension activities include working closely with county agents and producers across the state; conducting applied forage research for Kentucky and the transition zone; helping organize multi-county, state and regional forage conferences; and writing and updating forage extension publications. He current research focus is the establishment and maintenance of legumes in pastures, developing computer teaching models, grazing trials, and forage variety testing.